

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A temporary filter is described for use in percutaneous intravascular procedures for the treatment of diseased blood vessels, such as angioplasty or stent placement procedures. The guide wire which is used to direct a catheter (such as a balloon catheter) to a treatment site contains a deployable filter. The guide wire is moveable independently of the catheter and can be used to position the filter at a desired location downstream of the treatment site. The guide wire includes parts moveable with respect to each other and the filter is connected to these parts in such a way that it can be deployed and collapsed by relative movement of the parts.